

REVIVAL: MORE THAN A MEETING

LESSON 1: THE ROAD TO REVIVAL

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

Introduction

- ❖ When most people hear the word revival, they think about a week of special services, guest preachers, and good singing.
- ❖ While God certainly can move during those times, revival is much more than a meeting.
- ❖ A meeting can be scheduled. Revival cannot.
- ❖ Revival is God's work of restoring His people to fellowship with Him, renewing their passion for Him, and empowering them to live for His glory.
- ❖ Throughout Scripture, revival has never started with the world. It has always begun with God's people.
- ❖ Revival is not about getting God to move. Revival begins when God's people return to Him.

Background

- ❖ 2 Chronicles emphasizes God's faithfulness to His covenant and the spiritual condition of Judah's kings.
- ❖ Solomon completed the Temple David desired to build, marking one of Israel's greatest spiritual moments - 2 Chron. 2-5.
- ❖ At the Temple dedication, the glory of the Lord filled the house, and the priests could not minister - 2 Chron. 7:1-3.
- ❖ Solomon prayed that if God's people sinned but later repented and returned to Him, God would hear and restore them - 2 Chron. 6:24-42.
- ❖ God answered Solomon by affirming the Temple while warning that future disobedience would bring His discipline - 2 Chron. 7:11-22.
- ❖ Before Israel ever needed revival, God gave them the way back through humility, prayer, seeking Him, and repentance.
- ❖ 2 Chronicles 7:14 reveals God's pattern for restoring His people whenever they drift from Him.

Setting of the Text

- ❖ God is speaking directly to Solomon following the dedication of the Temple.
- ❖ Israel was experiencing one of the greatest spiritual victories in its history.
- ❖ God knew His people would eventually drift from Him.
- ❖ Before God changes a nation, He first changes His people.

What Is Revival?

Revival Is...

- ❖ Returning to God and restoring fellowship with Him - James 4:8; Acts 3:19.
- ❖ Renewing our passion for God and His Word - Ps. 85:6; Hab. 3:2.
- ❖ Recommitting ourselves to live in obedience to God's will - John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-6.

Revival Is Not...

- ❖ Limited to an emotional experience.
- ❖ A scheduled church meeting.
- ❖ Temporary excitement.
- ❖ A substitute for repentance and obedience.

THE PATH TO REVIVAL**Revival Begins with Humility – "...shall humble themselves..."**

- ❖ Humility is acknowledging our dependence upon God rather than ourselves - James 4:6-10.
- ❖ Pride says, "I can handle it." Humility says, "Lord, I need You." - Prov. 3:5-7.
- ❖ God resists the proud but gives grace and honor to the humble - James 4:6; Prov. 15:33.
- ❖ Jesus is our greatest example of humility and submission to the Father's will - Phil. 2:5-8.

Revival Grows Through Prayer – "...and pray..."

- ❖ Prayer is the language of dependence and the lifeline of every believer - Jer. 33:3.
- ❖ Prayer changes us before it changes our circumstances - Luke 18:1.
- ❖ Revival is sustained through a consistent life of prayer - 1 Thess. 5:17.
- ❖ God moves when His people seek Him together in prayer - Acts 4:31.
 - The disciples continued in one accord in prayer before Pentecost - Acts 1:14.

Revival Deepens as We Seek God's Presence – "...and seek my face..."

- ❖ God desires relationship more than religious activity - Ps. 27:8.
- ❖ Seeking God's face means pursuing His presence, not merely His blessings - Ps. 105:4.
- ❖ God's presence must become our greatest pursuit - Matt. 6:33.
- ❖ God rewards those who diligently seek Him - Heb. 11:6.
 - David longed for God's presence above everything else - Ps. 63:1.

Revival Continues Through Repentance – "...and turn from their wicked ways..."

- ❖ Repentance is more than feeling sorry; it is a change of heart that produces a change of direction - Acts 3:19.
- ❖ We cannot expect God to bless what we refuse to surrender - Prov. 28:13.
- ❖ God gladly forgives and restores those who sincerely return to Him - Isa. 55:6-7; 1 John 1:9.
- ❖ Genuine repentance always produces changed living - Matt. 3:8.

GOD'S PROMISE

"...then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

God Promises to Hear

- ❖ God hears those who humbly seek Him with sincere hearts - Ps. 34:15; Isa. 66:2.
- ❖ God invites His people to call upon Him with the assurance that He will answer - Jer. 33:3.
- ❖ Those who seek God wholeheartedly will find Him - Jer. 29:12-13.

God Promises to Forgive

- ❖ God forgives those who genuinely confess and forsake their sin - 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13.
- ❖ God's forgiveness restores fellowship that sin has broken - Ps. 103:10-12.
- ❖ God's mercy is available to all who sincerely return to Him - Isa. 55:6-7.

God Promises to Heal

- ❖ God restores what sin has broken and revives those who return to Him - Jer. 30:17; Hos. 6:1.
- ❖ God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds - Ps. 147:3.
- ❖ God is able to restore what has been lost when His people return to Him - Joel 2:25.

God's Promises Require Our Response

- ❖ God's promises should never be separated from God's conditions.
- ❖ God's blessings are experienced through obedient hearts - Deut. 28:1-2.
- ❖ Hearing God's Word must be followed by obeying God's Word - Luke 11:28; James 1:22.

Key Truth

Revival doesn't begin when the preacher arrives. Revival begins when God's people decide to return to God.

REVIVAL: MORE THAN A MEETING

LESSON 2: WHEN THE RAIN RETURNS

1 Kings 18:41-46 (KJV)

Background

- ❖ Israel experienced 3 ½ years of drought because of the nation's rebellion against God - 1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17
- ❖ Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal on Mt Carmel, where God answered by fire and proved that He alone is God - 1 Kings 18:20-39
- ❖ After the people confessed that the Lord is God, Elijah announced that rain was coming - 1 Kings 18:39-41
- ❖ Although God had promised rain, there was still no visible evidence.
- ❖ Elijah continued praying until God's promise became reality - 1 Kings 18:42-45

Waiting on God Is...

- ❖ Trusting God's Word even when circumstances have not changed - Heb. 10:23
- ❖ Praying with confidence instead of discouragement - Phil. 4:6-7
- ❖ Expecting God to fulfill every promise He has made - Num. 23:19

Waiting on God Is Not...

- ❖ Quitting because the answer has not yet come - Gal. 6:9; Luke 18:1
- ❖ Doubting God's faithfulness because His timing is different from ours - Heb. 10:23; Num. 23:19
- ❖ Walking by sight instead of walking by faith - 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1

WHEN THE RAIN RETURNS

Trust God's Promise - "...there is a sound of abundance of rain..."

- ❖ Faith believes God's Word before it sees God's evidence - Heb. 11:1
- ❖ God's promises never fail because God cannot lie - Num. 23:19
- ❖ Faith rests on what God has spoken rather than what circumstances try to say - Rom. 4:20-21

Pray Until God Responds - "...he cast himself down upon the earth..."

- ❖ Persistent prayer demonstrates confident faith - Luke 18:1
- ❖ Prayer keeps our focus on God instead of our circumstances - Phil. 4:6-7
- ❖ Revival is sustained through fervent, believing prayer - James 5:16-18
- ❖ Elijah continued praying until God answered - 1 Kings 18:42-44

Keep Looking - "...Go again seven times."

- ❖ God's delays are not God's denials - Isa. 55:8-9
- ❖ Faith continues looking even when nothing appears to be changing - Heb. 10:35-36
- ❖ Perseverance keeps believing until God's answer comes - Gal. 6:9
 - The servant obeyed Elijah's instruction seven times before seeing the cloud - 1 Kings 18:43

Prepare for the Rain - "...there ariseth a little cloud..."

- ❖ God often begins with small signs before sending great blessings - Zech. 4:10
- ❖ Don't despise small beginnings because God is still at work - Zech. 4:10
- ❖ Faith prepares for God's blessing before it fully arrives - Mark 11:24
 - Elijah prepared for the rain before it fell because he trusted God's promise - 1 Kings 18:44-46

GOD'S PROMISE –

"...and it came to pass... that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain."

1 Kings 18:45

God Always Keeps His Word

- ❖ God cannot lie, therefore His promises never fail - Num. 23:19
- ❖ God watches over His Word to perform it - Jer. 1:12
- ❖ What God has spoken, He will bring to pass - Isa. 55:10-11

God Rewards Persistent Faith

- ❖ God rewards those who diligently seek Him - Heb. 11:6
- ❖ Those who continue faithfully will reap in due season - Gal. 6:9
- ❖ Waiting on God strengthens our faith and renews our strength - Isa. 40:31

God Often Begins with Small Things

- ❖ Great blessings often begin with small beginnings - Zech. 4:10
- ❖ God delights in using small things to accomplish great purposes - 1 Cor. 1:27-29
- ❖ Never underestimate what God can do with a little – Mat. 17:20, John 6:9-13

God's Timing Is Always Perfect

- ❖ There is a season for everything God has ordained - Eccl. 3:1
- ❖ God's delays prepare us for His blessings - Ps. 27:14
- ❖ God's timing is always better than our own.

Key Truth

God's promises are always worth waiting for. Faith keeps praying until the rain falls.

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LESSON 3: THE POWER OF REVIVAL

Acts 2:1-47 (KJV)

God's Promise of the Holy Ghost

- ❖ Throughout Scripture, God promised a day when He would pour out His Spirit upon His people – Joel 2:28-29
- ❖ The prophets declared that God would give His people a new heart and place His Spirit within them – Ezek. 36:26-27
- ❖ Jesus assured His disciples that the Father would send the Comforter to empower and guide them – John 14:16-17, 26
- ❖ Before His ascension, Jesus instructed the disciples to wait for "the promise of the Father" – Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8
- ❖ On the Day of Pentecost, God fulfilled every promise by pouring out His Holy Ghost upon the believers - Acts 2:1-4

What Is the Power of Revival?

The Power of Revival Is...

- ❖ The work of the Holy Ghost producing lasting spiritual transformation - Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:17
- ❖ God empowering ordinary believers to accomplish extraordinary things for His glory - Zech. 4:6; Acts 4:31
- ❖ God's presence changing hearts, strengthening His church, and reaching the lost - Acts 2:37-47

Revival Begins with the Holy Ghost – "...they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..."

- ❖ Revival begins with the presence and power of the Holy Ghost rather than human ability - Zech. 4:6
- ❖ The Holy Ghost empowers believers to boldly live and witness for Christ - Acts 1:8
- ❖ God's strength is made perfect in our weakness - 2 Cor. 12:9
 - The disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost and declared the wonderful works of God - Acts 2:1-11

Revival Changes Hearts – "...they were pricked in their heart..."

- ❖ Revival brings conviction through the Word of God and the work of the Holy Ghost - Acts 2:37
- ❖ Revival leads people to repentance and obedience to Jesus Christ - Acts 2:38
- ❖ Revival transforms the heart before it transforms the life - Ezek. 36:26-27
 - About three thousand souls gladly received God's Word and were baptized - Acts 2:41

Revival Strengthens the Church – "...they continued stedfastly..."

- ❖ Revival produces a church devoted to biblical teaching - Acts 2:42
- ❖ Revival strengthens fellowship, worship, and prayer - Acts 2:42
- ❖ Revival unites believers in love, generosity, and joyful worship - Acts 2:44-46
 - The early church continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship - Acts 2:42-47

Revival Reaches the Community and Grows the Church –

"...the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

- ❖ Revival can't remain inside the church but reaches the surrounding community with the Gospel - Acts 2:47
- ❖ Revival empowers believers to be visible witnesses with their words and their lives - Matt. 5:16; Acts 1:8
- ❖ Revival demonstrates Christ's love in ways that draw others to Him - John 13:35
- ❖ Revival results in the Lord adding to His church as people are saved - Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 3:6-7
 - The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved - Acts 2:47

GOD'S PROMISE**God Gives Power for His Purpose**

- ❖ God's power is given so believers can be effective witnesses - Acts 1:8
- ❖ God equips those He calls - 2 Cor. 3:5-6
- ❖ God's work is accomplished by His Spirit and not by human ability - Zech. 4:6

God Changes Lives

- ❖ Salvation produces a new life in Christ - 2 Cor. 5:17
- ❖ God's Spirit transforms us from the inside out - Rom. 12:2
- ❖ Changed hearts produce changed living - Ezek. 36:26-27

God Builds His Church

- ❖ Christ continues building His church through faithful believers - Matt. 16:18
- ❖ Healthy churches grow as God's people faithfully serve Him - Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 3:6-7
- ❖ Unity strengthens the witness of the church - Eph. 4:1-6

God Uses Revived People

- ❖ Revival is never meant to stop with us - Matt. 28:19-20
- ❖ God blesses us so we can become a blessing to others - Gen. 12:2
- ❖ Revived believers become ambassadors for Christ - 2 Cor. 5:20

Key Truth

The evidence of revival is not merely what happens during worship. The evidence of revival is what happens after worship as lives are transformed and people are drawn to Christ.

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LESSON 4: RELEASE THE REVIVAL

Acts 4:31-35 (KJV)

Theme Scripture

"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33

Background and Setting

- ❖ Following Pentecost, the apostles continued boldly preaching Jesus Christ, and as the church grew, so did the opposition against it - Acts 3:1-26; Acts 4:1-22
- ❖ Peter and John were arrested and threatened for preaching the resurrection of Jesus, but the church chose to pray instead of panic - Acts 4:1-30
- ❖ The believers did not pray for an easier path. They prayed for greater boldness to keep doing what God had called them to do - Acts 4:23-30
- ❖ God answered their prayer by shaking the place where they were gathered, filling them afresh with the Holy Ghost, and giving them boldness to speak His Word - Acts 4:31
- ❖ The evidence of revival was seen in the way they lived. God's power, grace, unity, generosity, and their witness continued through His people long after Pentecost - Acts 4:32-35

What Does It Mean to Release the Revival?

Releasing Revival Is...

- ❖ Allowing what God has done in us to be seen through us - Matt. 5:16
- ❖ Living every day under the leadership and power of the Holy Ghost - Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5:18
- ❖ Taking what God has done in the church and living it before the world - James 1:22
- ❖ Boldly sharing Christ through our words, our lives, and our love for others - Acts 1:8; John 13:35

RELEASE THE REVIVAL

Release Revival Through Boldness

"...they spake the word of God with boldness."

- ❖ Revival gives believers boldness to stand for Christ even when it isn't easy - Acts 4:31; 2 Tim. 1:7
- ❖ Boldness comes from the Holy Ghost rather than self-confidence - Acts 1:8; Zech. 4:6
- ❖ We are called to faithfully proclaim God's truth regardless of opposition - Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 3:15
 - The apostles continued preaching even after they had been threatened - Acts 4:18-21

Release Revival Through Unity

"...the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul..."

- ❖ Revival brings God's people together around Christ's purpose - Acts 4:32; Phil. 2:1-2
- ❖ Unity strengthens the witness of the church - Eph. 4:1-6
- ❖ A united church reflects the heart of Christ - John 17:20-23
 - The believers were of one heart and one soul because Christ was their common focus - Acts 4:32

Release Revival Through Selfless Living

"...neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own..."

- ❖ Revival changes how we view everything God has entrusted to us - Acts 4:32; Ps. 24:1
- ❖ Revival moves us from ownership to stewardship - 1 Cor. 4:2
- ❖ God blesses us so we can glorify Him by becoming a blessing to others - Gen. 12:2
- ❖ A revived heart willingly meets the needs of others with joyful generosity - 2 Cor. 9:6-8; Luke 6:38
 - The believers willingly shared what God had entrusted to them so that no one among them lacked - Acts 4:34-35

Release Revival Through Your Life

"...with great power gave the apostles witness..."

- ❖ Revival is seen as much in how we live as in what we say - Matt. 5:16; James 2:17-18
- ❖ Every believer has been called to represent Christ wherever we go - 2 Cor. 5:20
- ❖ God uses revived lives to point others to Jesus Christ - Matt. 28:19-20; Titus 2:7-8
- ❖ A changed life is one of the greatest testimonies of God's power - 2 Cor. 5:17
 - Great grace and power rested upon the church as they witnessed for Christ - Acts 4:33

GOD'S PROMISE**God Gives Boldness**

- ❖ God gives courage to those who trust Him - Acts 4:31; Josh. 1:9
- ❖ The Holy Ghost equips believers to stand faithfully - Acts 1:8
- ❖ God will never leave those He calls to serve Him - Heb. 13:5-6

God Strengthens His Church

- ❖ Christ continues building His church - Matt. 16:18
- ❖ Unity glorifies God and strengthens believers - Eph. 4:1-6
- ❖ God's grace is always sufficient for His people - 2 Cor. 12:9

God Uses Faithful Witnesses

- ❖ Every believer has been called to be Christ's ambassador - 2 Cor. 5:20
- ❖ God blesses obedience with spiritual fruit - John 15:5; Gal. 6:9
- ❖ The Gospel still changes lives today - Rom. 1:16

God Continues the Work He Begins

- ❖ Revival spreads as God's people faithfully obey Him - Acts 4:33
- ❖ Faithfulness today impacts generations tomorrow - Ps. 78:4
- ❖ God receives the glory when His people faithfully live for Him - Matt. 5:16; Phil. 1:11

Key Truth

The evidence of revival is seen in the way we live. Revival is released when God's people faithfully live for Christ every day.